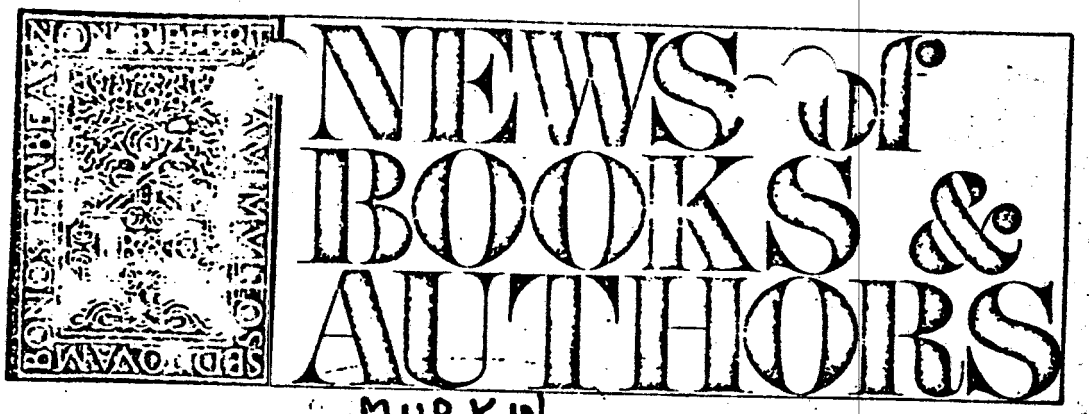

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MURKIN

BUFILE 44-38861

CONTACT: Mr. William

16

The first definitive biography of the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King is sched for publication in the fall of 1975 by Little, Brown. It is JAMES EARL RAY: An American Life George McMillan, a portrait of the man who once pleaded guilty to the murder of the prominent rights leader but who now insists that he was coerced into that plea.

Interest in the book will be heightened by the fact that Ray's appeal is certain to be going through the courts, with attendant publicity, until and perhaps long after the book's publication d

The assumption of the book is that Ray committed the crime and acted alone, and the maj stress of the book is that of creating a psychologically-sensitive portrait of Ray, beginning with l heritage and his impoverished childhood in a small Missouri town, up through the time he drove white Mustang into Memphis the day before Dr. King was murdered.

Unlike other books published recently about American political assassinations in the 1960' this biography of Ray is not centered on a conspiracy theory.

The author, a former Lasker Fellow in Civil Rights and Guggenheim Fellow, who has contributed civil rights articles to many national magazines, has spent more than five years on the book. In preparation for this study, McMillan has talked at length with Ray's family, with his friends, with his fellow-convicts, school teachers, social workers, and consulted many distinguis psychiatrists about Ray's life.

NOT RECORDED
12 JUL 3 1975

JUL 1 1975

LITTLE, BROWN AND CO. 34 BEACON ST. BOSTON, MASS. 0210